

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

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Washington Metropolitan Area Adds 11,100 Jobs in March

Washington Metro Division's Unemployment Rate at 4.8 Percent

(Washington, DC) - The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) reported today that the preliminary March job estimates show an increase of 11,100 jobs for a total of 2,546,100 jobs in the Washington Metropolitan Division. The private sector increased by 10,100 jobs, while the public sector gained 1,000 jobs. The Washington Metropolitan Division's not seasonally adjusted March 2015 unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, which is down 0.2 percentage points from the February rate of 5.0 percent.

Over-the-Month Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The total civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division for March 2015 was 2,595,700, of which 2,471,100 were employed and 124,600 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 4.8 percent. The total civilian labor force in the Suburban Ring of the communities surrounding the District of Columbia was 2,886,000, of which 2,761,300 were employed and 124,600 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.3 percent. In the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the Washington Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, Maryland Metropolitan Division, the civilian labor force was 3,267,600, of which 3,115,200 were employed and 152,300 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.7 percent. For the month, the unemployment rate for the Washington Metropolitan Division decreased by 0.2 percentage points, while the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Suburban Ring decreased by 0.1 percentage points each.

Over-the-Year Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The Washington Metropolitan Division's civilian labor force decreased over the year by 300, while the number of employed increased by 14,100, and the number of unemployed decreased by 14,400. The civilian labor force for the Suburban Ring decreased over the year by 4,400, while the number of employed increased by 11,600, and the number of unemployed decreased by 16,200. Meanwhile, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area's civilian labor force increased by 5,500, while the number of employed increased by 23,000 and the number of unemployed decreased by 17,700. For the year, the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Division and the Suburban Ring decreased by 0.6 percentage points each and the unemployment rate for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased by 0.5 percentage points.

Metropolitan Division's Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month by 11,100 jobs. The private sector increased by 10,100 jobs, and the public sector increased by 1,000 jobs over the month. Six private sectors along with the state government had over-the-month job gains. Job gains were registered in professional and business services, which gained 6,200 jobs; other services gained 600 jobs; trade, transportation, and utilities gained (1,400 jobs); mining, logging and construction gained (1,100 jobs); financial activities gained (200 jobs); and leisure and hospitality gained (2,000 jobs). Three private sectors along with the federal and local government had over-the-month job losses. Job losses were registered in educational and health services which lost (600 jobs); manufacturing lost (200 jobs); and information lost (600 jobs). Government overall gained (1,000 jobs) over the month. State government gained (1,500 jobs), while the federal government decreased by (400 jobs), and the local government decreased by (100 jobs).

During the last 12 months, employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased by 39,900 jobs. The private sector added 33,000 jobs, while the public sector gained 6,900 jobs. Professional and business services reported the greatest year-over growth, up 14,600 jobs. Five other private sector industries along with the federal, state and local government posted year-over job gains: Educational and health services up (7,900 jobs); mining, logging and construction up (2,300 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities up (7,600 jobs); other services up (600 jobs); and leisure and hospitality up (3,900 jobs). Information recorded the greatest year-over downturn, down 1,900 jobs. Two other private sector industries posted year-over job losses: manufacturing down (1,300 jobs); and financial activities down (700 jobs).

Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area Explanations

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division

includes: The District of Columbia, Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park and the Virginia Counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Rappahannock and Culpeper; the Maryland Counties of Calvert, Charles, and Prince Georges; and the West Virginia County of Jefferson.

The estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area will be the summation of the estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division (contained in this release) and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, MD Metropolitan Division (to be released by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation).

Data reflects the 2014 annual benchmark revisions.

Attachments